

# TRIBAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES FACT SHEET



## **Background**

With the passage of welfare reform in 1996, federally recognized Native American Indians (NAI) tribes were authorized to design and administer their own TANF programs. This was done in recognition that barriers to employment, including lack of child care, transportation, education/work experience, may be magnified for NAIs.

Effective February 1, 2002, the Torres-Martinez Consortium implemented the Tribal TANF program providing cash benefits and employment services for NAI families in the County of Los Angeles. Torres-Martinez Tribal TANF (TMTT) provides welfare services to needy NAI families in the same fashion as the County of Los Angeles, including job-readiness training, assistance on finding a job, and supportive services to enable NAIs to leave the program and become self-sufficient.

## **Key Points**

- All CalWORKs applicants self-identified as NAI are offered the option of receiving TMTT or CalWORKs TANF via the PA 14, Important Notice for Native American Indians.
- CalWORKs applications are processed (approved/denied) per existing DPSS procedures, pending approval/denial of TMTT.
- Upon notification of TMTT approval, CalWORKs case are denied or discontinued and CalFresh/Medi-Cal cases are reevaluated for eligibility.
- Participants approved for TMTT may apply for CalFresh and/or Medi-Cal benefits in either a DPSS district office or TMTT office where outreach staff is co-located.
- Sanctions previously imposed, are not transferable from CalWORKs to TMTT and vice-versa.
- Qualified NAI can transition from one program to another; however, they cannot receive cash aid from both programs simultaneously.

## **Key Points**(Con't.)

- The federal 60-month time limit applies TMTT programs.

During the 60 month time limit clock, there are months that do not count against the time limit clock if the adult:

- Is disabled for at least 30 days.
- Is taking care of a child that was a dependent of the court or at risk of going into foster care.
- Received no cash aid.
- Is a victim of domestic violence.
- Is sanctioned and did not get cash aid.
- Is 60 years of age or older.

- Duplicate aid and fraud investigations:

- To prevent duplicate aid, the Consortium checks all of its Tribal TANF applicants by contacting the DPSS Outstationed Eligibility Worker to determine if CalWORKs is currently being received. The Outstationed worker is stationed at the TMTT Wilshire office three days a week.
- DPSS remains responsible for investigating fraud that may have occurred while a participant was on CalWORKs; the Consortium is responsible for investigating fraud that may occur on tribal TANF cases.

- Tribal TANF liaisons and outreach activities:

- All Tribal TANF and DPSS field offices have Tribal TANF Liaisons to resolve issues that arise in administering the program.
- Both agencies allow reciprocal outreach programs. DPSS staff conducts CalFresh and Medi-Cal outreach activities upon request in the Tribal TANF field offices; conversely, Consortium staff conducts Tribal TANF outreach in DPSS offices upon request.

DPSS and TMTT meet regularly to discuss and resolve any outstanding issues.